FBIS DAILY REPORT

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CLASH BETWEEN ISRAELIS, PALESTINIANS REPORTED

LD060926Y Cairo Palestine Radio in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Apr 78 LD

[Text] WAFA has reported that three Israeli soldiers were killed yesterday afternoon in a clash in Ra's al-Ayn region, 7 km south of Tyre. The clash took place after an Israeli patrol opened fire on Palestinian and progressive forces' positions and the fire was returned. The Palestinians captured the vehicle that was used by the Israeli patrol. It is noteworthy that this clash is (?the first serious incident) after 8 days of relative clam in southern Lebanon since the arrival there of the UN peace forces.

'ARAFAT HEADS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

JN051803Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1622 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman and Commander in Chief of the Palestinian revolution forces Abu 'Ammar yesterday evening headed a meeting held by the joint Central Command of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. During the meeting the conferees discussed the current situation and the problems of the southern evacuees. The meeting was attended by the higher joint Palestinian-Lebanese committee, which reported that the schools [words indistinct] were cleared of evacuees.

Meanwhile, Abu 'Ammar met at noon yesterday with Soviet Ambassador in Beirut Soldatov, who delivered a message to Abu 'Ammar from the Soviet leaders. This is the second message to be delivered during the past 3 days.

FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE CONCLUDES 2-DAY MEETING

JN051807Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1622 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The Central Committee of Fatah yesterday concluded its 2-day session. During the meeting the Central Committee reviewed the situation from the military and political aspects in the Palestinian, local, Arab and international arenas. The committee also reviewed the results of the war in the south between the joint forces and the Israeli forces. The committee also assessed the victories scored by the joint forces in these ferocious battles and their impact on the Palestinian, Arab and international spheres.

The Central Committee of Fatah drew up plans to deal with the coming phase in light of the developments in the area. The committee further reviewed the internal situation of the Fatah movement and adopted a number of necessary measures and decisions.

PLO CHAIRMAN YASIR 'ARAFAT INTERVIEWED BY ADN

LD051544Y East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1237 GMT 5 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Beirut--In an interview with Frank Kluwe, ADN correspondent in Beirut, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has spoken about the present situation in southern Lebanon and the problems of a lasting solution to the Middle East conflict.

Replying to a question about the aims of the Israeli aggressor, 'Arafat said:

"It has been proven unequivocally that we were confronted with massive aggression by the Israeli army." The Israelis used all their weapons systems--tanks, aircraft, warships, rockets and parachutists, he said.

"The Israelis started their aggression with roughly 30,000 soldiers," the PLO chairman said. "They used highly developed weapons which they received from the United States. The aggressors also used the notorious pellet bombs and numerous rockets. It seems as though these weapons were tested during the aggression against our people." The Israeli troops fired not only on the armed forces of the PLO but also bombarded the houses of the Lebanese civilian population and Palestinian refugees. "According to Israeli statements, it was the aim of this barbaric aggression to destroy the PLO, our armed forces, the whole Palestinian people," 'Arafat stressed. "It is of extraordinary importance to know that the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, approved such an action through its decision, a decision to destroy another people."

The PLO chairman continued: "Their plans suffered a defeat through our determination, heroic resistance and our battle tactics." It is true that the Israeli troops were able to occupy a part of southern Lebanon. However, in this connection Yasir 'Arafat stressed the successful operations by the PLO fighters.

The PLO must, as before, start from the premise that the plot will continue in various forms and colors, Yasir 'Arafat said in reply to a question about the tasks in the present phase and the prerequisites for a just and lasting solution to the Middle East conflict. "It is an international imperialist-Zionist plot against the Palestinian and Lebanese people, against the PLO, against the Palestinian revolution and against Lebanon's progressive national forces."

The attackers believed that they could reach their targets within a few hours. These plans failed. 'Arafat continued: "Our resistance led to a strengthening of morale among all the Arab peoples. This has been felt very noticeably in all Arab states, particularly in the occupied Arab territories. A real explosion of protest demonstrations has taken place elsewhere there. It is most important that many volunteers from various regions have joined our forces. About 95 percent of these volunteers are Palestinians."

Yasir 'Arafat continued: "We strive for peace in the Middle East, but for a just peace and not a peace of capitulation. What is proposed by the Israelis and their backers is not a just peace but capitulation. We are fighting for a just peace which gives the Palestinian people their national rights--the right to return to their homeland, the right to self-determination and the right to the creation of an independent state in our Palestinian lands.

"It is my view that only the path towards the attainment of such a peace is the return to the joint Soviet-American Middle East statement, which was accepted by both the great powers in October 1977. This document is an important basis for a solution to the Middle East conflict.

In reply to a further question about the role of anti-imperialist solidarity with the Palestinian people, who have been so tested by adversity, and with the decision of the front of steadfastness, the PLO chairman said: "We formed the Arab resistance front in order to deepen and to strengthen the solidarity between the peoples' masses, governments and parties.

"This front is an expression of the will of the participating sides to offer resistance against a capitulation and against the imperialist machinations in the Middle East." He recalled that so far the front has met for two summit conferences in Tripoli and in Algiers and for a meeting of the foreign and defense ministers. A number of important decisions was taken there to support the struggle waged by the PLO.

The PLO will also in the future continue its endeavors to strengthen this front, which is directed against imperialism, Zionism and colonialism, and which rejects any capitulation to the U.S.-Israeli plot. The Palestinian movement is not waging its struggle alone; "we have a broad front of brothers and friends in the Arab states, in the socialist states and in the nonalined states."

'Arafat said in conclusion about the recent visit by a PLO delegation under his leadership to the USSR and the GDR: "Our delegation had extremely successful talks in both states. The talks in Berlin and Moscow strengthened our relations with our friends in the GDR and in the Soviet Union. We are very proud of these firm and solid relations which we maintain with both these friendly states and with the other socialist states."

ABU IYAD: ISRAEL PLANS FURTHER 'PROVOCATIONS'

LD0610152 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 2 Apr 78 p 3 LD

[Special correspondent A. Agaryshev 1 April Beirut interview with Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member]

[Text] Beirut 1 April--Abu Iyad, PLO secretary for security questions, has given an interview to special KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent A. Agaryshev.

[Question] What new features characterize the situation in Lebanon in the last few days?

[Answer] We want to inform the friends of the Palestinian people and all those who hold dear the struggle against imperialism and for freedom, progress and national liberation about the new provocations which the Israeli aggressors are planning in the Near East. Not only is Israel not prepared to withdraw from occupied southern Lebanon, but it intends to expand the aggression. The Israeli ultimatum issued a few days ago attests to this in particular. It is not hard to understand that there was no real basis for it because the "conditions" put forward in it distort the decision of the UN Security Council. According to this decision, UN forces are to be posted south of the Litani River, and the Israeli forces are, as is known, to leave these regions. However, under various pretexts Tel Aviv is trying to "justify" its presence in southern Lebanon and to delay the withdrawal of its forces.

The attempt to drive the Palestinians out of Lebanon is only the first stage in the plan concocted by the imperialists. The second stage is aimed directly against the neighboring Arab states, and today we are warning people about this with all seriousness.

[Question] As the leader of the PLO security service, what can you tell us about the Israeli aggressors' plans?

[Answer] The Israeli sabotage services are preparing a whole series of provocations both against the Lebanese people and against other Arab countries. It is no secret to anyone that Israel was directly involved in the tragic events in Lebanon. In essence it provoked the civil war and is still continuing to support the isolationists with weapons.

As is known, a short time ago bombs exploded in the regions where the inter-Arab security forces are stationed. These provocations were prepared by Israeli intelligence. We also know that Israel is drawing up plans for the physical annihilation of PLO cadres both in Lebanon and in other countries. Incidentally, U.S. presidential adviser Z. Brzezinski openly alluded to this in one of his speeches. At the same time, Israeli Prime Minister Begin stated in the Knesset that the aggression in southern Lebanon should not be looked upon as an "act of revenge" on the Palestinians. "We have not yet started to avenge ourselves," he said, making it clearly understood that Israel is preparing new provocations.

[Question] Are you able to give more detail about the specific provocations you are talking about?

[Answer] Information reaching us at the moment indicates that several hundred Israelis in southeast Lebanon are undergoing special training to carry out operations in Beirut. We also have grounds to suppose that at the same time they are planning provocations against a number of Arab countries and states friendly toward us.

According to our information, the Israeli sabotage service plans to use vehicles with the markings of PLO and Lebanese national patriotic forces in preparing the murder of leading PLO cadres and various acts against the population aimed at stirring up national and religious strife.

We also know that Israel is preparing routine sabotage against PLO representatives abroad. The series of murders of our representatives in Paris, Rome and London is still fresh in our minds. These murders were prepared by Israeli intelligence. In order to conceal its participation in such matters Israel is also working out "special" actions which it intends to attribute to "Palestinian terrorists." We know that the Israelis have placed cars stuffed with explosives in several enterprises in eastern Lebanon. We know the numbers of some of the cars. We follow the actions of the saboteurs carefully and know the people who work with them. The PLO will do everything incumbent on it to frustrate these plans.

PFLP'S HABASH MEETS IRAQI BA'TH PARTY MEMBERS

JN0520267 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 5 April--Talks were held tonight between a delegation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party under Comrade Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member, and a delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] under Comrade Dr George Habash, PFLP secretary general. Attending the talks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party were Comrade Sa'dun Shakir, Ba'th Party regional command member and RCC member; and Comrade 'Abd al-Husayn Musallam, head of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Office in the National Command; and for the PFLP by Comrades Taysir 'Qubba'ah and Bassam Abu Sharif, members of the PFLP Political Office.

The 3-hour talks dealt with relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the PFLP, events in the Lebanese arena, the requirements to confront the Zionist-imperialist-reactionary onrush and the current situation in the Arab arena.

SALIM AZ-ZA'NUN SUPPORTS ARAB SUMMIT, LAUDS AID

JN0511517 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0945 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 5 April--Salim Az-Za'nun, deputy chairman of the Palestine National Council, has praised the financial aid the sons in the gulf area are giving to the Palestinian revolution.

Az-Za'nun described the relations between the PLO, particularly Fatah, and the gulf states as good. He said that these relations are based on mutual respect and non-intervention in domestic affairs.

In an interview published today in the newspaper AL-JAZIRA, the Palestinian official stressed the need to convene an Arab summit conference to confront the current Arab developments. He said that it is incumbent on everyone to neutralize the reservations regarding holding the conference, because the next battle with the Zionist enemy will be vicious now that the Israeli prime minister has rejected everything.

Az-Za'nun rejected the idea of settling the Palestinians in the areas where they have been evacuated because this would lead to surrender and the loss of the cause. He said: We believe that Lebanon belongs to the Lebanese, Jordan to the Jordanians and Egypt to the Egyptians.

Speaking about the activities of the PLO offices in Europe, Az-Za'nun said that these offices are attempting to contact all the anti-Zionist parties and organizations to confront the Zionist activity that is infiltrating European societies. He asserted that the successes scored by the Palestinian cause in the world political sphere--in the United Nations as well as in other international bodies--have caused Israel worry and embarrassment. The deputy chairman of the Palestine National Council explained that the council's activities on the international level aimed at increasing the world's recognition of the Palestinian cause and [words indistinct].

Az-Za'nun said that the council's next meeting was scheduled to take place at the end of this month, but it was postponed owing to the events in southern Lebanon. He added that the council will hold this meeting (?in June) with the aim of drawing up a new strategy in light of the changes that occurred in the Arab area.

PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL SCORES ABU NIDAL STATEMENTS

JN0518102Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1622 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] An official information media source at the Palestinian revolution has stated the following: The newspaper [name indistinct] of Geneva and the newspaper [name indistinct] of Lausanne have published statements about southern Lebanon made by the so-called Abu Nidal, who resides in Baghdad. In view of what the two newspapers published, we are anxious to make clear the following:

1. The so-called Abu Nidal has no connection whatsoever with the Palestinian revolution. He was expelled from the Fatah movement years ago. He now resides permanently in Baghdad.

2. The statements published by the two newspapers and attributed to the so-called Abu Nidal on the situation in southern Lebanon cause harm to the two newspapers. The so-called Abu Nidal never had anything to do with any of the Palestinian arenas of steadfastness and confrontation, particularly in southern Lebanon. With his foolish statements and lies he is trying to ride the wave of victories scored by our heroic fighters.

We call upon all the objective and responsible information media to be careful about publishing statements from such suspicious sources lest they be charged with frivolity and folly.

ARAB-EUROPEAN DIALOG MEETINGS REPORTED

JN0311226Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--The meetings of the Arab ministerial committee to discuss the Arab-European Dialog began this morning at the Syrian Central Bank. The meetings opened with an address delivered by Syrian Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, who presided over the committee meetings in the presence of Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad.

At the beginning of his speech, Dr al-'Imadi welcomed, on behalf of the Syrian Arab Republic, its president, people and government, the secretary general of the Arab League and the members of the ministerial committee, who are studying a very significant question related to the political, economic and technical strategy of the Arab homeland; namely, the Arab-European Dialog.

Dr. al-'Imadi said: This dialog was born after the October war of liberation as an expression by the Arabs of their will to use diplomatic and economic efforts to mobilize the world public in favor of their major issue--the issue of liberating the Arab lands and regaining the usurped rights of the Palestinian Arab people to their lands, state and homeland.

Dr al-'Imadi said: This dialog was born to express the special relationships which now link the Arab and European areas with ties of security, economic and social growth, culture and history.

Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad then made an address thanking the Syrian Arab Republic for hosting the committee as well as for the facilities it provided the committee for its meetings. He also explained the progress of the Arab-European Dialog since its beginning and the difficulties it has faced, as well as the political, economic, social and cultural trends of this dialog.

Riyad said: The dialog will not be restricted to one question but will include all activities.

Afterwards, the committee began discussing the Arab-European Dialog. The Syrian Arab delegation submitted to the ministerial committee a memo on the Arab-European Dialog and a working paper for the meetings.

Meetings Continue

JN0411023Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 4 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--The ministerial Arab committee discussing the Arab-European Dialog began preparing its recommendations and resolutions on this subject after having reviewed yesterday phases of the Arab-European Dialog, its progress and trends. During the meetings of the committee the conferees discussed the memo submitted by the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic to the committee as well as the memo submitted by the Arab League.

UAE OFFICIAL RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM 'ARAFAT

JN0611017Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Umm al-Qaiwain, 6 April--Shaykh Rashid ibn Ahmad, crown prince and deputy ruler of Umm al-Qaiwain Emirate, this morning received Ribhi Hallum, director of the PLO office in the UAE. Hallum conveyed a verbal message to Shaykh Rashid ibn Ahmad from Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, connected with the current situation in southern Lebanon and the Arab area.

KUWAIT

RULER, OFFICIALS HOLD TALKS WITH AFGAN PRESIDENT

LD051040Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Apr 78 LD

[Text] At 0830 today, Afgan President Mohammad Daud Khan called on his highness the amir at As-Sif Palace for talks between the two sides. Attending were the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, and Afgan ministers of justice and trade.

The minister of amiri court affairs said that the talks dealt in particular with bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and ways of consolidating cooperation between them in various fields. The two sides also reviewed in detail the situation in the Moslem world, and they discussed the international situation in general, in addition to issues of common concern. The talks were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding and complete spirit of friendship.

RULER RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SUDANESE PRESIDENT

JN051451Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1415 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 5 April--Kuwaiti ruler Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah this morning received a message from Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri. It has been reported that the message, which was delivered to his highness by Sudanese Ambassador Ma'mun Ibrahim Hasan, is connected with the current Arab situation and the efforts exerted to restore the unity of ranks and the action taken to form the Arab solidarity committee.

QATAR

AMIR RECEIVES DEPARTING FRENCH AMBASSADOR

JN051911Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1345 GMT 4 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Doha, 4 April--His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, today met with Bernard Lopinot, ambassador of France in Doha, at the end of his term of office in Qatar. During the meeting the amir of Qatar asked the ambassador to convey his greetings to French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. He also praised the efforts of the French ambassador to promote the existing relations between Qatar and France and wished him success in his new post, and Qatari-French relations further development and growth.

SAUDI ARABIA

ARAB LEAGUE'S RIYAD ARRIVES, MEETS WITH KING

LD060134Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Apr 78 LD

[Text] At Al-Ma'dar Palace this evening His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad. The meeting was attended by his Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and by Dr Rashad Far'awn, private adviser to his majesty. Mahmud Riyad arrived in Riyadh from Damascus this morning on a visit to the kingdom within his current tour of some Arab countries.

Meets With Foreign Minister

LD051258Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal today had a 2-hour meeting with Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad, who arrived in Riyadh early today. They discussed current Arab issues.

'UKAZ WELCOMES DECISION TO CONVENE ARAB SUMMIT

LD051832Y Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 3 Apr 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial]

[Excerpt] The Arab League secretary general's announcement that an Arab summit meeting is to be convened in Khartoum represents a victory for the policy of Arab solidarity and shows the need to reach a minimum agreement at least in facing the Zionist challenges at the present critical stage of the Arab struggle. This is because Israel, since its establishment in 1948 and up to this day, has always based its plans on exploiting Arab differences and playing its cards accordingly, thus achieving many benefits as a result of Arab disunity and division.

Many changes have occurred in the Arab arena since the 1974 Rabat summit, changes which have underlined the need for a new Arab strategy that will face up to the new developments, be compatible with the current stage and lead to the right path for achieving the Arab nation's aspirations of liberating the occupied Arab territories and restoring the national rights of the Palestinian people.

The forthcoming Arab summit must uphold the Arab nation's mission of confronting the Zionist challenge, which is backed by international powers. It must also uphold the Arab nation's will that refuses division, disunity and disputes, particularly where issues of the Arab nation's destiny are concerned.

It is for all of these objective aims that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been working to cleanse the Arab atmosphere of the many issues that mar it, because it believes that Arab solidarity is the key to confronting the Zionist challenge and the bridge which the Arab nation will cross toward reaping the fruits of its long struggle.

UAE

JA'FAR NUMAYRI SENDS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT

JN051513Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1517 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi--His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has received a message from Sudanese President Gen Ja'far Numayri. The message was delivered by 'Abdallah (as-Samhuni), Sudanese ambassador to the UAE, during his meeting with Rashid 'Abdallah 'Ali al-Nu'aymi, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs.

Following the meeting the Sudanese ambassador stated that the message deals with the developments of the current Arab situation and that it comes within the framework of consultations between the two countries on efforts being exerted to achieve Arab solidarity.

VICE PRESIDENT RECEIVES PLO OFFICE DIRECTOR

JN051513Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1455 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Dubayy, 5 April--UAE Vice President and Dubayy Ruler Shaykh Raashid ibn Sa'id Al Maktum at noon today received Ribhi Hallum, the director of the PLO office in the UAE. During the meeting the talk centered on the recent developments in southern Lebanon and the current Arab situation. The meeting was attended by Communications Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Malla.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF RECEIVES IRAQI AMBASSADOR

JN051529Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 April--Brig Gen Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan, commander in chief of the armed forces, met today with Khalid 'Abd al-Wahab, Iraq's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates. Following the meeting the Iraqi ambassador stated that he discussed with Brig Gen Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan the means to strengthen relations between the two countries. He said that he also conveyed to the UAE armed forces commander in chief an invitation from the Iraqi chief of staff to visit Iraq. He further said that the UAE commander in chief accepted the invitation. The date of the visit will be determined later.

AL-ITTIHAD: ISRAEL TRIES TO MAR ARAB-U.S. RELATIONS

JN060929Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0850 GMT 6 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 April--Commenting on Israel's recent attempts to drive a wedge between the Arabs and the United States, the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD says today: In trying to achieve this, Israel used two weapons. It first tried to launch a concentrated campaign against Saudi aid to the PLO. Israel then tried to use the pictures taken by the Israeli airplanes of Tabuk air base in an attempt to convince the United States that this sophisticated base constitutes a danger to Israel.

AL-ITTIHAD explains that Israel thus aimed to make the United States doubt Arab peace intentions by trying to ask how the Arabs could speak about the peace while financing the PLO's military operations and building air bases which threaten Israeli security.

AL-ITTIHAD stresses: We can answer this deceitful Israeli logic by emphasizing two facts. The first is that since the PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people we cannot let the Palestinian people and their legitimate representative stand alone in confronting oppression without at least giving them financial aid. The second fact is that we cannot wait unarmed for peace at a time when Israel continues its aggression against our territories and goes on stockpiling arms in its arsenals.

YEMEN--PDRY

ECONOMIC TALKS BEGIN WITH GDR OFFICIALS

LD052232Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] The first round of economic talks began today between a Yemeni side led by Yasin Nasir, under secretary of the Ministry of Planning, and a GDR side led by (Leonhart Horschel), general director of the Ministry for Foreign Trade. The talks are a followup on the agreement reached with the GDR leaders by Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad during his visit to the GDR in January of this year. The GDR delegation arrived in Aden last night.

AS-SADAT ATTENDS INFORMATION MEDIA CONFERENCE

NC0513537Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 5 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 April--President Anwar as-Sadat has announced that Egypt is ready to attend any Arab summit conference, saying that it is natural for the Arab leaders to meet from time to time. President as-Sadat explained that the Arab situation is not how it is being portrayed, which is an exaggerated picture. He affirmed that the rejectionist front cannot influence the Arabs' desire to achieve peace. The president made these statements in his speech at a meeting his excellency had today with the delegations to the conference of the international information media and the Third World states. The conference, which was organized by MENA, is being attended by 80 members, representing 30 states in addition to the United Nations.

President Anwar as-Sadat also said during the meeting which was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, that he still approves of the principles U.S. President Carter announced in Aswan as a basis for peace. The president said that he asked U.S. President Carter that the United States carry out its role as a full partner in the Middle East problem.

The meeting between President as-Sadat and members of the conference began with a speech by Prof Menson Ryan, an alternate chairman of the conference. He expressed the conference members' gratitude for and appreciation of being received by the president. He said that at the conference they discussed the inclusion of important subjects in the field of information in the Third World states.

At the end of the meeting, Professor Ryan gave President as-Sadat a gift. This was a necklace with the emblem of the Fletcher Institute for Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University in the United States. He said that the conference considers President as-Sadat as a professor of law and diplomacy in the world. The meeting was attended by the head of the president's office, Hasan Kamil. The conference, which began its activities the day before yesterday, will hold its final session this evening.

As-Sadat Speaks at Conference

NC0516009Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 5 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 5 April--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today delivered the following address at his meeting with representatives who are attending the international and Third World states information media conference which began the day before yesterday in Cairo:

In the name of God, it is a happy occasion for me to meet with such a prominent assemblage here. The Middle East is a focal point for the entire world, because after 30 years of Arab-Israeli conflict we have now reached a turning point. Since last November, when I made my initiative and visited Jerusalem, I have really tried to set a new example in an attempt to establish a new concept in international relations. Through this concept the parties concerned can save considerable time, effort and hardship in reaching a solution as civilized people around the negotiation table. This is true despite the fact that the Arab-Israeli conflict has reached the most complex dimensions through a prolonged legacy of hatred, violence and bitterness in four wars. In spite of all this, I believe that in a single leap I have overcome many emotional barriers, difficulties and problems.

Unfortunately, however, I have not yet received any answers from the other side. This certainly does not mean that the initiative has lost its importance and significance after hundreds of millions of people throughout the world have taken part in it, lived through every minute of it with us and are still living with us up to this moment. Let us hope that the new concept will prevail.

I have given a new example for solving all world problems through civilized means instead of through hatred or bitterness or violence, because such means only generate hatred, hardship and bloodshed.

I must thank our friends for the warm speeches they delivered. All I can say is that I will never forsake the hundreds of millions of people throughout the world. I will do my best and persist until I complete this mission and continue to serve as an example. I am optimistic by nature. Let us hope that we can establish peace in this area after this long legacy which I mentioned earlier. I would like to make our meeting one of dialog instead of a platform for delivering speeches or something like that.

I want to thank you very much on my behalf and on behalf of my people. I want to know personally that you are always welcome in this country. We will always look forward to the establishment of new relationships among the members of the worldwide human family, just as we have succeeded in establishing the basis of this relationship between the Egyptian family and the Arab family. Thank you very much.

After President as-Sadat delivered his address, some of the conference delegates asked him questions. The questions and President as-Sadat's answers follow:

Question: Mr President, you have said that you have not yet received any response, and it seems that your initiative is stalled, at least for now. I would like to ask you whether you will consider using other means to maintain your initiative and continue breaking what you called the psychological barriers. For instance, would you endorse cultural exchanges or trade relations with Israel, something to get your two peoples closer together in place of the political and military talks which are not taking place now?

Answer: Well, let me to tell you this: I have really accomplished more than anyone can imagine. I am afraid that any other initiative like the one you suggested means putting the cart before the horse. How can we begin economic exchanges or open borders or take other actions like the ones you suggested while we are still talking in two different languages? Here in Egypt our language has become completely new after the initiative, absolutely free of complexes. As I told you, in one leap we have overcome the legacy of bitterness, hatred and four wars. The other side is still living with the old concepts. Therefore, it would be useless to begin anything new before we begin speaking the same language and before we have the same concept--the concept that should prevail in the wake of my visit to Jerusalem. During that visit we sat together around the table without complexes. The psychological complexes ended when I visited Jerusalem, delivered my speech before the Knesset and spoke to the Israeli people through the Knesset. Only in this way we can establish peace. However, I do not see how we can make any progress through such actions as the ones you spoke about.

Question: Mr President, do you think it would be advisable to attend an Arab summit conference? Also, do you think such a conference will be beneficial to you since there is much opposition to your move in the Arab world?

Answer: Well, we have announced our position in this respect and said that we have no objection at all to the convening of any Arab summit conference--neither to the date nor to the location of such a meeting. We are fully prepared [to attend] and I think that it is natural for us as Arab leaders to meet from time to time in the form of a summit meeting or something similar. The only remark I must make is that the Arab situation is not as it is being portrayed in an exaggerated manner.

Let us look at those who call themselves the rejectionist camp. They have always been a rejectionist camp--before, during and after the October war. Libya, Iraq and Syria have always been like that. I have been subjected to extremely violent attacks since the first disengagement agreement. The same thing happened after the second disengagement agreement. I would like the whole world to know that whatever the disagreements may be, they will not affect the will for peace in the Arab world and particularly in Egypt. You have seen my people express their feelings toward my initiative. The new concepts have been winning the support of the Arab man on the street day after day. As I have told you, we have no objection at all either to the date or the location of an Arab summit conference.

Question: Mr President, a few days ago massive demonstrations were staged in Israel by a large number of Israeli people. What is your reaction to this?

Answer: I have actually said it in a couple of words: They are wise. I recall that the same place witnessed a celebration when Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and I agreed to meet in Ismailia. Before Begin's arrival in Ismailia over 50,000 Israelis gathered in one of the main squares in Tel Aviv to celebrate the occasion and to welcome the peace talks. I have no comment except to say that they are wise.

Question: Mr President, I represent the Indonesian Journalists league, and it gives me great honor to express the condolences of the league and all Indonesian Journalists everywhere in Indonesia over the death of my colleague Yusuf as-Siba'i, your close friend who sacrificed his life for his mission in January. Thank you.

Question: Mr President, could a third party such as the United States, Britain or any other party help in getting the negotiations going again?

Answer: Well, the United States is actually helping. You recall that during my recent visit to the United States and my talks with President Carter in February I asked President Carter, the House of Representatives and the Senate to play their role as full partners. President Carter has indeed played his part, and I believe that with adequate diplomacy we can reach the point where the talks can be resumed. Meanwhile, as you have heard, I received Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman in Cairo. He may come again. I have already said that I have no objections in this respect. I told him the last time he was here--2 days ago--that he would be welcome whenever there are new ideas that could constitute a starting point and that could make us speak the same language instead of two languages.

Question: Mr President, do you expect the negotiations to be resumed on any date? You have not mentioned a date for Weizman's next visit. Do you expect this stalemate to continue for weeks or months? What is Your Excellency's opinion?

Answer: Believe me, I can only say this: [The talks will be resumed] when we are ready to give up all the old concepts and to sit together. I really cannot say when this will happen, but when it happens we will be ready.

Question: Mr President, would you like the United States to join you at the negotiations table with a comprehensive program, and do you have any assurances from President Carter's administration that if the deadlock continues they will submit a detailed plan?

Answer: I held talks with President Carter in February. In my farewell speech I said that at the beginning of my visit I felt disappointed and discouraged but that after my meetings with President Carter, the House of Representatives and the Senate, I was returning with a new spirit of determination. The U.S. role is extremely important. As I said before, the United States--President Carter--is not merely the cochairman of the Geneva conference and not merely a mediator. No. President Carter is a full partner, and he agrees. This is quite satisfactory to me.

Question: Mr President, as you know, there are some very dangerous people who oppose you. It must have occurred to you that something might happen here. Do you fear that if something happens to you, your initiative will fail and the rejectionists will have the upper hand?

Answer: Well, you have mixed with us in Egypt during your conference here. Many foreign correspondents live among us here. You probably saw how my people received me on my return from Jerusalem, and how they demonstrated in front of the 'Abidin Palace last year. It is my people's wish, not my own personal idea. My people want peace based on justice regardless of whether I remain in my position here or I am out of the presidency. I am sure that this will continue because it is what my people want. What I have done is not my personal initiative or will.

Question: Mr President, do you still intend to visit Jakarta, as was announced unofficially some weeks ago?

Answer: I intend to do that. When I visit the Far East I will definitely visit Indonesia.

Question: Mr President, President Carter has declared a number of principles to be a basis for your talks with Israel. Are these principles acceptable to you as declared and presented by President Carter?

Answer: Yes. I declared this in Aswan. I confirm it once again. They are acceptable to me whether in relation to the declaration of principles or to the whole peace process.

Question: Mr President, we understand that the Israelis are expecting certain counterproposals from the Egyptian side. Have these been made? If not, what are the basic conditions for resuming the political or military talks, or both?

Answer: Let me tell you this: Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin presented what he called his plan. When he asked me to submit a counterproposal, our plan was basically connected with the Palestinian question. We cannot speak on behalf of the Palestinians on topics connected with the Palestinian problem, but we can assume the responsibility of guaranteeing the declaration of the basic strategic principles which had been agreed upon at the Arab summit conference. We have, therefore, submitted our counterproposals in relation to this fact only. However, on other details it is up to the Palestinians to speak for themselves. You ask about conditions. These are the conditions we made for the talks. We have not set any absolute conditions. We do not set any conditions but we say that there are certain basic principles which must be adopted. I believe that the whole world recognizes these principles, namely, that there must be no violation of the territory or sovereignty of others.

Question: Mr President, most of the African states have broken diplomatic relations with Israel in support of the Arab cause. They have also greeted your peace initiative. Don't you believe that black Africa has a role in relation to the search for peace in the area? If so, what is this role?

Answer: Yes, definitely. The African stand provides most substantial assistance to us in solving the problem because it is based on the fact that peace must be based on justice. In Africa, we and our movements for liberation in Africa suffer from the same problems we are suffering here in this area. Therefore, we have a common language and a common goal in Africa: the establishment of peace based on justice. The African position, politically and morally, is of great importance and significance in relation to our case.

Question: Many people, including many Egyptians, feel that it is not Israel which is obstructing peace but Menahem Begin helself. Is Your Excellency among those who believe that Menahem Begin is an obstacle in the way of peace?

Answer: Well, as you see, I do not wish to interfere in the domestic affairs of others, and I do not wish to make any comment.

Invitation To Speak at AP Meeting

NC051415Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1342 GMT 5 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 April--Stanley Swinton, vice president of the AP Board of Directors, has stated that President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has accepted his invitation to attend the general meeting of the U.S. news agency and to deliver the annual address. Stanley Swinton said that President as-Sadat has agreed in principle to accept the invitation. He said that his attendance depends on his engagements at the time.

Mr Stanley Swinton met with President Anwar as-Sadat today during his excellency's meeting with the members of the information media conference organized by MENA.

Information Media Conference Ends

NC052043Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The international information media conference ended its meetings tonight at the ASU Central Committeee headquarters. Those attending the conference discussed a proposal by MENA for setting up a training center for Third World journalists in Cairo. They approved the proposal in principle.

At the final session the participants also reviewed the results reached during the 3-day session and discussed the flow of news through various communications means and ways of overcoming the difficulties being encountered. Over 80 scientists and experts in the information media and communications, representing 32 countries, took part in the conference.

AL-AHALI CRITICIZES WEIZMAN'S VISIT TO CAIRO

JN051324Y Baghdad in Arabic 1240 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 5 April--The Egyptian National Unionist Progressive Grouping party has criticized the official stand of As-Sadat's regime in leaving the door wide open for enemy war minister 'Ezer Weizman to visit Arab Egypt at any time he wishes. An authoritative source of the party said in a statement published today by the newspaper AL-AHALI, organ of the party, that the enemy war minister should not be welcome to come at any time to Egypt and that no Egyptian or Arab can like or admire him. Anwar as-Sadat, ruler of Egypt, said last week that he still regards the direct dialog with Israel open and that he is ready to receive Weizman at any time to reach a settlement.

CAIRO REPORTS SENTENCING OF AS-SIBA'I MURDERERS

NC041540Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The Nicosia court has handed down the death sentence on Samir Muhammad Khadir and Zayid Husayn al-'Ali, who are charged with the murder of Yusuf as-Siba'i, the chief editor of the newspaper AL-AHRAM. The date 1 June has been set for the execution. Defense counsel Lefkos Kliridhis stated that he will appeal the sentence.

EGYPT TO GET 60-MILLION-KRONE LOAN FROM DENMARK

NC011631Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 1 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 April--Egypt and Denmark today initialed an agreement under which Egypt will receive a 60-million-krone loan from Denmark, to be repaid over 25 years after a 7-year interest-free grace period.

AID TO SOUTH LEBANON CONTINUES; MORE TO FOLLOW

JN051315Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 5 April--INA has learned that $10 million has been transferred as the first installment of contributions from the employees of government and other official departments as well as from workers and military personnel as relief aid to the evacuees from southern Lebanon. Other installments of contributions from vocational and popular organizations and trade unions will also be transferred to the evacuees. Two weeks ago the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command gave $5 million as relief aid to the evacuees from the combat areas of southern Lebanon.

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES MASSES ON BA'TH PARTY ANNIVERSARY

JN051422Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Comrade Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, deputy secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the republic, said that the 17 July revolution is capable of achieving victory because it knows itself and its abilities and because it has linked its fate with the mission of the Arab nation, a mission of Arab liberation, unity and socialism.

In a message addressed to the masses of the Arab nation on the 31st anniversary of the establishment of the leading Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, published in the ALIF BA' magazine, he congratulated these masses. He said: On the 31st anniversary of your glorious Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the day of joy and giving and the 7 April anniversary, it gives me pleasure to send you heartfelt congratulations through your magazine on this great historic day which coincides with the anniversary of the revolution and the march of toil, production, sacrifices, gains and progressive achievements of this struggling country.

This anniversary comes at a time when your revolution in our beloved Iraq has been strengthened and its revolutionary line and decisive stand threaten bases of imperialism and Zionism and foil the humiliating schemes of settlements and capitulation through a qualitative change to frank, direct and principled confrontation.

Your 17 July revolution is capable of achieving victory because it knows itself and its abilities and because it has linked its fate with the mission of the Arab nation, a mission of Arab liberation, unity and socialism. This revolution also believes in the principles of the Arab Revolution Party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and of the unity of revolutionary struggle in the world. Let the banner of unity, freedom and socialism for which the strugglers who have devoted their struggle to the victory of the Arab nation and its just issues, sacrificed and are sacrificing, be raised. Let the banner of struggle in face of Zionism, imperialism and reaction be raised. May God's peace be with you.

[Signed] Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, deputy secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the republic.

AL-BAKR SPEAKS ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

JN051907Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has stated that the revolution, when it aims at bringing about urgent and comprehensive development, does so within a pan-Arab perspective and within the framework of long-term planning and transforming the processing industry, equipped with modern technology, into the basis of local industries.

In an address during his visit to the Ministry of Industry and Minerals this morning, President al-Bakr added that industrial coordination and integration among Arab countries are important factors of the new Arab renaissance, for they are not only necessary economic factors but also historic necessities.

President al-Bakr was accompanied on his visit by Munyi 'Abd al Husayn, Revolution Command Council [RCC] secretary general. He met there with Muhammad 'Ayish, RCC member and minister of industry and minerals. [title as received]

President al-Bakr also stressed the importance of the socialist sector, which is considered the pioneer and leading sector in the industrialization process. He called for consideration of the question of the choice of modern technology suitable to the Iraqi situation so as to obtain optimum benefits, for finding the best conditions by which to enter the sphere of export industries after local needs are fulfilled. President al-Bakr also stressed the necessity of taking into consideration the geographic distribution of industries, as this is a strategic issue which must take into account the results of industrial development and its effects on the environment of the industralized regions, and the protection of the citizen, the landscape and historic values in Iraq. He further stated that the revolution is going through with its implementation of the national development plan in a balanced manner, by adopting scientific methods coupled with collective administration with regard to planning and implementation. and by exchanging views with regard to production problems and the means to develop production.

OFFICIAL HAILS IRAQI-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP TREATY

JN05/0024Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 5 April--'Abd al-Fattah Muhammad Amin, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and chairman of the Federation of Cooperation and Friendship Societies, has affirmed that the cooperation and friendship between Iraq and the Soviet Union will remain a symbol of the common struggle of the Arab nation and the peoples of the Soviet Union, and a living example and model of relations among states which march on the road of progress against imperialism, reaction and backwardness.

In a speech at a mammoth celebration held this evening on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the signing of the friendship treaty between Iraq and the Soviet Union, Amin called on all progressive forces in the world to support our people's just struggle against the perilous conspiracy to which the Arab homeland is being subjected.

In a speech delivered at the celebration, Soviet Ambassador in Baghdad Anatoliy Aleksandrovich Barkovskiy said that the Soviet Union is following with great interest and respect the life and activities of the Iraqi people and their leadership, and contributes constantly to the strengthening of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He said that relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union are based on foundations which cannot be shaken by the attempts of the enemies of Arab-Soviet friendship.

Barkovskiy affirmed that the experience of the Iraqi-Soviet cooperation clearly indicates that the consolidation of relations and contacts between the two countries on the basis of the treaty of friendship and cooperation of 1972 is in harmony with the fundamental and national interests of the two peoples, and contributes to the strengthening of the friendship between them. He said that the Soviet people are following with satisfaction the big achievements brought about by the Iraqi people under the guidance of their political leadership.

ERITREAN DELEGATION ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD FOR TALKS

JN0308144Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 3 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 April--The deputy secretary general of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front arrived in Baghdad this morning at the head of a delegation from the front visiting Iraq for several days.

Afework will have talks with officials of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command on developments in Eritrea and the African Horn. The delegation includes Al-Amin Muhammad Sa'id, member of the Politburo and official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the front; and Ibrahim 'Afa, member of the Politburo and official in charge of the front's Military Committee. The delegation was received at the airport by several members of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Bureau at the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command.

Meets Party Officials

JN0320402Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2014 GMT 3 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 April--A meeting was held this evening between a delegation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party under Tariq 'Aziz, member of the party's National Command and member of the Revolution Command Council, and a delegation of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front under Afework, deputy secretary general of the front.

During the meeting discussion revolved around the situation in the Eritrean arena and developments in the situation in the Arab arena.

The meeting was attended by 'Ab al-Husayn Musallam, head of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Bureau; Abu 'Ala', member of the bureau; Ibrahim 'Afah, member of the Politburo of the popular front; and Al-Amin Muhammad Sa'id, member of the Politburo and official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the front.

Visit Ends, Delegation Leaves

JN2510397 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 5 April--Isaias Afework, deputy secretary general of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, left Baghdad this morning at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraq.

Isaias Afework described his talks and those of his delegation with Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command officials as useful and fruitful.

In a statement to the press, Isaias Afework said that the officials of the National Command affirmed during the talks the principled and constant stand of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and Iraq toward the developments related to the revolution of the Eritrean people as well as the developments taking place in the Arab world in general. He expressed his thanks to Iraq for its constant support of the Eritrean people's revolution in its struggle to achieve victory and liberate the Eritrean territories from the oppressive Ethiopian colonialism.

ENVOYS TO CONVEY MESSAGES ON PROPOSED SUMMIT

JN051924Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Official envoys will leave Amman in the next few days carrying messages from His Majesty King Husayn to the Arab kings and leaders pertaining to the agenda proposed by Jordan for the Arab summit conference which His Majesty King Husayn called for to draw up a comprehensive plan for Arab action to confront current circumstances and the dangers threatening the Arab homeland.

The royal messages also pertain to the detailed program of action proposed by the Jordanian Government to be put before all the Arab states so that it will be studied and, it is hoped, adopted as a basis for joint Arab action.

His Majesty King Husayn presided over a cabinet meeting on Monday to discuss the proposed plans of action, which include suggestions to regulate the economic and political aspects, to build an Arab power and to form joint establishments regulating Arab relations. Jordan will continue its efforts within the framework of these ideas to contribute to the building of an Arab stand commensurate with the delicacy and gravity of the current stage.

PAKISTANI CHIEF OF STAFF ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN041457Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 4 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 4 April--Staff Lt Gen (Sadeq Rashid Abbasi), chief of staff of the Pakistani Army, arrived in Amman today at the head of a military delegation on an official visit of several days to Jordan. During the visit he will meet with several senior military commanders and visit a number of military institutes and units.

KING HUSAYN CONGRATULATES HUNGARIAN PRESIDENT

JN041334Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Apr 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent a cable to the Hungarian president in which he congratulated him on the Hungarian independence day and wished the Hungarian people progress and prosperity.

INA: 3 DIE IN DEMONSTRATIONS SUPPORTING PALESTINIANS

JN051156Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 5 April--It was learned here today that two school girls and a teacher died in Amman after being beaten with clubs by the Jordanian authorities during the demonstrations which took place late last month in support of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement in their confrontation of the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon.

Palestinian sources said that the two girls were students at 'Umar ibn al-Khattab High School in Jabal al-Husayn in Amman and that the teacher was Salih al-Majisi, a math teacher at At-Taj High School in Jabal at-Taj in Amman.

The sources added that Palestinian camps in Amman are still encircled by Jordanian security and police forces following a campaign of arrests which involved dozens of students and citizens who registered their names at the volunteer centers to fight alongside the joint forces in southern Lebanon.

MINISTERS MAKE STATEMENTS FOLLOWING CABINET MEETING

NC0517202Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis chaired the weekly cabinet meeting this morning. Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the ministers attended the meeting, after which the following official information was released:

The cabinet discussed security, economic and social affairs in Lebanon. It also discussed the situation in the south and the measures that have been taken to help the citizens to return to their villages. The necessary directives were given on this. The cabinet then discussed topics on its agenda and adopted the relevant decisions.

At the end of the meeting Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus said: I did not submit anything to the cabinet meeting but I briefed it on recent developments. In reply to a question on the government's stand on the proposal to increase the number of UN forces in Lebanon, Butrus said: When it is necessary to broach the subject, the government will do so in light of the country's interests and requirements. The government is well aware of things that will facilitate matters. However, the government does not have an official stand on this question at present because it believes that the time has not come for such subjects to be discussed.

In reply to a question about turning the UN forces into deterrent forces, Minister Butrus said: These views certainly have their value. However, everyone must try to adapt his stand to UN Security Council practice. Please do not ask me to tackle such matters at the speed you wish.

Asked if there is anything new in the sphere of detente, Minister Butrus said: I do not have anything new. I believe the best way to find out about this is to refer to the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies.

In reply to a question, Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman affirmed that Internal Security Forces have gone to the south. He said: We gave the order for this 2 days ago.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Dr As'ad Rizq was asked whether there was anything new regarding the higher relief committee. Minister Rizq said: There will be a press conference on the relief committee at the Labor Ministry next Friday. I shall meet with the international organizations and announce the arrangements we have made regarding relief.

SHAM'UN MEETS WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR PARKER

NC0513334Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 5 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Former President Camille Sham'un today held a meeting with U.S. Ambassador Richard Parker. The meeting lasted about 75 minutes.

After the meeting former President Sham'un stated: The discussion dealt with the situation in southern Lebanon and the points contained in the statement I issued yesterday, in which I pointed out the shortcomings of the UN Security Council resolution. He added: It is the government's duty to impose its authority in the south, including Tyre and the whole area beyond the Litani River. The government should be able to do this as soon as the necessary preparations are completed. Sham'un reiterated his approval of Speaker Kamil al-As'ad's proposal to turn the UN forces into deterrent forces.

AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE ON AID FOR PALESTINIANS

NC052059Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Following recent statements on the question of military aid--men and equipment--reaching the Palestinian resistance, an authoritative official source today made the following statement:

The aid which the resistance in the south had been receiving has effectively stopped in view of three factors which can be summed up as follows:

1. The confirmation of the cease-fire and the arrival of the UN forces in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425;

2. The Lebanese-Syrian-Palestinian common desire to give priority to Israeli withdrawal and not do anything that Israel could use as a pretext to delay the withdrawal of its forces; it was in this context that the deterrent forces command issued its decision banning the entry of military aid which had been regarded as one of the reasons for the tense atmosphere and for the delay in the Israeli withdrawal;

3. The present position of the Palestinian resistance, which no longer needs men or arms.

On the basis of these three factors the military aid was halted decisively and finally. If it has been noticed that some aid has arrived, this was within the framework of the prior approval during the war in the south. In accordance with these facts, the definite sufficiency of the resistance and the desire not to give the Israeli enemy any pretext, the armed Palestinian volunteers who came during and directly after the war have begun to depart. The first group of these elements left Al-Masna' center on Sunday, 2 April. The second group left on 4 April. All these elements are continuing to leave.

The official sources added: As for the rumors about the situation in some areas in Beirut, it was natural that the war in the south would create a security problem and a social problem in view of the large number of evacuees who came to these areas and to the southern suburbs. He continued: Add to this the psychological state of some partisan and nonpartisan commands, leading to armed incursions in certain areas during the war and the week that followed, in expectation of surprise Israeli attacks.

He added: Since the cease-fire the Arab deterrent forces have been able to restore normal life in the area through their two-fold military work and coordination with the security and partisan commands, and through use of heavy patrols to prevent any armed incursions or disorderly actions which break down security. He said that armed incursions at night have disappeared recently, even near some party offices.

In conclusion the authoritative source expressed surprise that some circles still insist on portraying certain areas in Beirut as being fraught with chaos and disorder. He said that anyone can go to these areas to see for himself.

INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES LEAVE FOR SOUTHERN LEBANON

NC051301Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Elements of the Internal Security Forces today left for Tyre en route to Jisr al-Qa'qa'iyah where they will be deployed in order to establish an official presence in the southern area.

Our Sidon correspondent has sent us the following dispatch on the subject: [begin recording] This morning trucks carrying elements of the Internal Security Forces left for Tyre. These elements will assemble at the Tyre gendarmerie barracks to await deployment to the various police posts in the south. It has been learned that elements of the same force will be immediately dispatched to the Jisr al-Qa'qa'iyah area in order to establish an official presence in the area and contribute to maintaining order and security. [end recording]

Report on Deployment

NC051932Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Our Sidon correspondent has sent us the following dispatch on the distribution and deployment of the Internal Security Forces in the south:

[begin recording] The most important subject we report is that some elements of the Internal Security Forces have arrived in Tyre and have assembled in the gendarmerie barracks. This barracks will serve as a base for the deployment of those forces in various areas in the south and for patrols. Elements of the Internal Security Forces have established posts in the Ra's al-'Ayn area and on Al-Bazuriyah road. They have started to perform their duties. The commander of the south unit, Capt As-ad Dahir, has pointed out that the gendarmerie is present in the police posts of Tibnin and Qana.

It has been learned that elements of the Internal Security Forces will be moved to Jisr al-Qa'qa'iyat to set up a post there and that another force is being prepared. This force will be sent to Bint Jubayl where it will set up a post in addition to that of the UN emergency forces.

IRAQI SOLDIERS REPORTEDLY OCCUPY FOUR VILLAGES

NC051307Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 5 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Some sources say that the return of evacuees to the Tyre and Bint Jubayl areas is proceeding with noticeable ease. The evacuees now can return whenever they want.

The evacuees from some villages in the An-Nabatiyah area received relief aid from some humanitarian institutions, and they proceeded to their homes in Kafr Tibnit, Ad-Duwayr, 'Arab Salim and Shukin. The evacuees found that some 1,800 Iraqi soldiers had taken over their homes and were refusing to evacuate them. This led the residents of the four villages to leave again.

Set Up Barricades at An-Nabatiyah

NC051309Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 5 Apr 78 NC

[Text] It was reported from southern Lebanon at noon today that two Iraqi soldiers have been killed while handling a mortar. The Iraqi soldiers have set up barricades since last Sunday around An-Nabatiyah and on the roads leading to it. They are searching people and checking their identities.

INA REPORTS ON SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN060817Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 6 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 6 April--The Lebanese authorities have withdrawn the elements of the Internal Security Forces which took up forward positions yesterday near the roadblocks that have been set up by the UN troops in southern Lebanon, particularly around Tyre.

The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon has reported that the elements of the Lebanese Internal Security Forces--estimated at 100 men--have been withdrawn to the barracks inside Sidon and Tyre. The correspondent added that these elements are patrolling the towns only. The correspondent pointed out that what prevented the stationing of Lebanese security forces on the axes was that the occupation forces oppose the presence of Lebanese forces at the roadblocks. This opposition has been conveyed to the Lebanese authorities by the UN troops.

The Zionist forces yesterday violated the cease-fire and three Zionists were killed as a result. The enemy is continuing to reinforce his positions, particularly those overlooking Tyre. This affirms the enemy's determination to prolong his occupation and to impede the implementation of the UN resolution which provides for the withdrawal of the enemy forces from southern Lebanon.

Israeli Advance Reported

JN051450Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 5 Apr--The Zionist forces this morning advanced 800 meters in the direction of the UN forces on the (Qulaylah) axis, east of Tyre. Other Zionist forces advanced to new positions on the Burj Rahhal axis, north of the city.

The INA correspondent in the area reports that the Zionist forces have begun to build fortifications in the new positions despite the warnings of the UN forces. The correspondent adds that the commander of the UN force in Tyre today met with several military commanders in the joint forces to discuss the subject.

ISRAELIS REPORTEDLY GIVING HEBREW NAMES TO VILLAGES

JN060944Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0925 GMT 6 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 6 April--The weekly newspaper AL-HADAF published a report from Beirut today stating that Israel has begun changing the names of certain villages in southern Lebanon by giving them Hebrew names. Israel is also raising Israeli flags over buildings of certain official establishments. One such building is the Tibnin hospital which Israel has staffed with Israeli doctors.

The paper further reports that the Israelis have begun building roads between villages in southern Lebanon and adds that Israeli merchants are opening shops there.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES JORDANIAN PRESS DELEGATION

JN0520017Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 1800 today President Hafiz al-Asad received the delegation of the Jordanian Press Association who came to congratulate the president on his reelection as president of the republic. The delegation included dean of the journalists Rakan al-Majali, Dayfallah al-Humud, Mahmud 'Abdallah, 'Abd al-Hafiz Muhammad, Muhammad Abu Ghawsh, Fakri Abu Hamdi and Fayiz Hamdan, who are members of the association council. The head of the Journalists Federation in Syria, Dr Sabir al-Falhut, attended the meeting.

President al-Asad thanked the delegation of the Jordanian Press Association for their congratulations. He spoke to the members of the delegation on the situation the Arab homeland is passing through and the role of the press in emphasizing the sound pan-Arab concepts, resisting deviation and capitulatory trends and serving pan-Arab issues.

At the end of the meeting the head of the delegation presented the president with the shield of the Jordanian Press Association as a souvenir of the meeting.

KHADDAM MEETS WITH SEVERAL PLO OFFICIALS

JN0516099Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received in his office today Messrs Faruq Qaddumi, Zuhayr Muhsin, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, Talal Naji and Muhammad Ratib Ghunaym, members of the PLO Executive Committee.

BA'TH PARTY OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON PARTY ANNIVERSARY

JN0512169Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has praised the party's struggle against backwardness, division and imperialism and for achieving the goals of the Arab masses in freedom and socialism.

In an interview with the weekly newspaper JIL ATH-THAWRAH on Syria's celebrations marking the establishment of the party, Comrade al-Ahmar said: Our task now is to build the new Arab individual, who is conscientious and capable of seeing events in a scientific manner and tackling them with a spirit of responsibility.

Speaking about the bleak phase which the Arab nation is passing through, Comrade al-Ahmar said: We are confident that the battles the Arab nation is waging will not end as long as there are conspiratorial designs against us and against the Arab homeland in general. When we score a victory over one design, our enemies will concoct another.

Speaking about the Palestinian issue and As-Sadat's capitulatory steps, Comrade al-Ahmar said: The Zionists want to liquidate the Palestinian issue and impose capitulation on the Palestinian Arab people, who are the conscience of the Arab cause. As-Sadat has thrown himself into the lap of Zionism and this means that he has joined the side of the enemy against the Arab nation. This certainly creates a military imbalance in favor of the Zionist enemy.

Comrade al-Ahmar praised the front of steadfastness and confrontation as a vital nucleus for the unity of Arab action in confronting the Zionist enemy and for coping with the designs being concocted against our Arab nation.

AL-BA'TH VIEWS CURRENT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS

LD0604567 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 31 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Majid Mu'awwad article: "The U.S. Role in Current Negotiations"]

[Text] As expected, the Egyptian regime and the racist Zionist entity have resumed their public negotiations following the period of secrecy which--as U.S. Secretary of State Vance indicated--was necessary for continuing these negotiations.

The presence of Zionist war minister Weizman in Cairo, who is currently carrying with him the views that were reached in the recent Washington talks between President Carter and Begin and As-Sadat's declaration beforehand about his readiness to accept any formula that may be reached between Carter and Begin, is a definite sign that this time the negotiations will probe deeper and will probably enter their final stages.

Therefore, if we know that Carter and Begin have agreed to reject total withdrawal and the establishment of a Palestinian state as well as to exclude the PLO from any negotiations on the Middle East, then we should realize the seriousness of the agreement to which As-Sadat expressed his readiness to assent.

It also becomes clear that the Israeli-As-Sadat disagreement and, consequently, the Israeli-U.S. disagreement are a programmed disagreement and a political maneuver whose aim is to postpone a solution for as long as possible until the suitable moment arrives. In this light, the return to public negotiations in the present conditions which the Arab nation is experiencing and in which the conspiracy against this nation has reached its peak was evidently arranged in advance by preparing the necessary atmosphere for completing these negotiations when the Arabs are in a helpless situation.

The choice by the parties to the conspiracy of the present conditions in particular--of which the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon was one of its basic links--was precise and well planned.

The fact is that at present the Arab nation is experiencing one of its worst situations because it is still suffering from the negative effects of As-Sadat's visit to Israel. The Zionist attack on southern Lebanon has proved that at the present stage it is unable to play the role it should play. Therefore, the choice by the parties to the conspiracy of specifically resuming negotiations now and the launching of the attack on southern Lebanon at the same time are not only designed to satisfy the Zionists' desire for expansion but also to achieve what the conspiracy is aimed at--to strike at the Palestinian revolution and, subsequently, to strike at revolutionary Syria in its capacity as the main bulwark of the Palestinian revolution and the militant forefront in the confrontation with all the challenges and conspiracies aimed at the Arab nation. The aim of the conspiracy is also to create difficulties for the front of steadfastness and confrontation in order to prevent it from completing the building of its basic structures so that the Egyptian regime and its allies in the conspiracy will be able to implement their mean plot in the face of whose implementation Syria stands as a stumbling block. So far Syria's stand has succeeded in aborting most of the objectives of this conspiracy.

Consequently, and in view of As-Sadat's confidence in the U.S. President and his endorsement of whatever he approves, the U.S. role at the current stage centers on drawing up the final formula for the separate agreement. Weizman's current visit to Cairo, Dayan's presence in Washington and Begin's visit to Washington in May are directly connected with this subject.

ALGERIA

ASH-SHA'B CALLS FOR AS-SADAT'S RESIGNATION

LD051752Y Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Apr 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Will As-Sadat Fulfill His Promise?"]

[Text] As he was preparing to travel to Jerusalem in an attempt to end in 30 hours a problem that has lasted 30 years, As-Sadat pledged that he would resign from the presidency if his trip to Jerusalem failed.

Only yesterday the Cairo government officially announced the failure of the talks between Israeli war minister General Weizman and President as-Sadat and attributed the failure to what it called "the clinging of the Tel Aviv leaders to obsolete traditional ideas about alleged Israeli security."

This admission makes it incumbent upon the originator of this idea to take the next step, namely to resign, so that struggling Egypt can restore its effective weapon in the face of the arrogant enemy, namely Arab solidarity. But it is difficult to see any logic in the policies of the Arab east because of changing moods, frequent fluctuations in positions and the domination of emotions over reason. On the one hand it is declared that the attempt has failed, and on the other we find the insistence by Cairo to keep the channels of contact between itself and Tel Aviv open. What is the reason behind this strange contradiction?

The course of events could lead to three possible situations:

--The declared results of the Egyptian-Israeli contacts should make every observer expect As-Sadat to resign in accordance with the pledge he made on the eve of his visit to occupied Jerusalem. The resignation would bring him out of the darkness of the tunnel in which he is now and would restore his country's prestige. Moreover, his withdrawal from the political scene would open the door to rebuilding Arab solidarity on a militant basis because the secret of Arab strength lies in their unity of word and rank. This is not a fact that emerged overnight. Kissinger had been aware of it and therefore during his comings and goings tried to undermine it and succeeded, though temporarily.

--Another possibility is that Weizman's visits to Cairo during the alleged estrangement between the two sides could mean that negotiations are continuing far away from publicity and may have reached an advanced stage in the effort to conclude a separate deal. In this case Weizman's recent visit to Cairo becomes especially important in view of the man's military responsibility in administering the occupied areas and his role in building Zionist settlements in Sinai.

Thus the desires of both sides meet on a common ground: The Egyptian regime is taking every opportunity to wash its hands finally of the Palestinian problem so as to restore its territories in return for separating Egypt from its natural allies and Israel wants to isolate Egypt as the most powerful country in the area so that it can devote its attention to other fronts and extend its borders to the Euphrates.

The dispatch of Weizman to Cairo confirms the desire of Zionism to keep its bridges to the Egyptian regime open so that Tel Aviv--in the well-known Jewish fashion in business deals--will obtain maximum benefits from the existing Arab collapse.

Weizman now freely moves between Marj 'Uyun in southern Lebanon and the Egyptian capital in order to plan for the next stage of translating the Zionist slogan into reality, the slogan which says: "Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile."

--As-Sadat's resignation might be unlikely at present because he is still awed by the American peace illusion. He clings to the policy of extending his hand to the enemies and of turning his back to the brothers and sisters. However cleverly this game is played, this attitude cannot but unravel the secret behind it. The Egyptian ruler has indeed become a stumbling block for any real Arab solidarity. Perhaps what encourages him to postpone his resignation and to remain in office is the silence of the sisterly Arab oil countries which continue to finance him despite the fact that the justifications for such aid as were specified by the well-known conference of the three no's are no longer valid.

For this reason we do not believe the story of the failure of Weizman's recent visit to Cairo because the Arab funds have been paving the way to reaching the goal intended for this move even before the visit to Jerusalem.

ASH-SHA'B ON SIGNIFICANCE OF CHAD AGREEMENT

LD051850Y Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "The Choice Before the Rabat Regime"]

[Excerpts] It may appear that the agreement announced in Benghazi yesterday between the Chad Liberation Front--FROLINAT--and the Chadian Government is a domestic matter concerning only the Chadians themselves. But for many reasons, the question transcends the borders of this friendly country, and its results affect the whole area. Why?

First, the agreement puts an end to the state of instability which the country has experienced for more than 12 years, and which the previous regime was unable to resolve. This state of affairs weakened the powers of the central authorities and sometimes led them to trading off the country's independence for foreign, particularly French, military support.

Second, the agreement was concluded thanks to African efforts and within a purely African framework, totally removed from any foreign interference. This goes to prove the ability of Africans to settle their disputes peacefully, in accordance with a genuine tradition that has proven its effectiveness on more than one occasion.

Third, the restoration of stability in Chad settles the situation in one of the hotbeds of tension on our continent and closes the door in the face of intervention by foreign forces whose interests are contrary to those of our peoples. These forces are constantly trying to widen and magnify the area of dispute in order to prevent the attainment of peace and stability.

There is no doubt that certain foreign powers which are used to fishing in troubled waters will not applaud the agreement because it does not accord with their imperialist and monopolist interests, runs contrary to their objectives of rebuilding their collapsed empires and deprives them of a big market for selling the latest products of Western war factories.

These powers, which never give up, are acting overtly and covertly in northwestern Africa. They are fanning the flames of the Western Sahara war by supplying arms and military equipment to the Rabat and Nouakchott regimes in order to insure the iron, oil, phosphate and fish resources for neocolonialism. But how long can they go on doing this?

There are many lessons in history for those who wish to learn them. Therefore, it is hoped that the Rabat and Nouakchott regimes will learn the lesson and realize that force cannot solve the problem of the Sahara, because the cause of righteousness will not disappear with the passage of time.

Let the regime of Hassan II ponder this question: Has force changed Ethiopia's borders in the Horn of Africa? Have the rebels of FROLINAT in northern Chad been wiped out despite direct French military intervention on the side of the NJamena government?

The king of Rabat now has two precedents with which he can justify to his people the abandoning of all of his foolish adventures in the Western Sahara. Perhaps the first step on this road is to recognize the POLISARIO front as the sole legitimate representative of the Saharan people and to negotiate with it peacefully to solve the Saharan problem in accordance with the will of our continent and its charter.

Such a situation would spare the northwestern African area the dangers of a clash which, should it take place, will leave physical and psychological scars that will last many years.

Therefore, what path will the Rabat regime choose? Is it to be the path of intransigence and of clinging to a failed political theory that the Saharan revolutionaries have buried in the desert sands, or the path of reason, wisdom and logic and, therefore, recognition that the Saharan people do exist and have a right to live freely and independently and as masters of their own lives in their country?

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES JORDANIAN PRIME MINISTER

LD0600044Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Apr 78 LD

[Text] This morning at the place where he is staying in Benghazi brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received Jordanian Prime Minister brother Mudar Badran and the members of his delegation. The 2-hour meeting was attended by the brothers 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, chairman of the General People's Committee; Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, the foreign secretary; and the Jamahiriyah's ambassador in Amman.

Brother Mudar Badran delivered a written message to brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi from his brother King Husayn dealing with the current Arab situation. During the interview the Jordanian prime minister affirmed Jordan's stand in the face of the common enemy of the Arab nation and Jordan's rejection of all capitulatory initiatives or the squandering of the rights of the Arab nation. He added that Jordan stresses the need for joint Arab action to counter Zionist ambitions and the threat to the Arab nation. He expressed his full appreciation for the position adopted by brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Fatah revolution toward Arab and international issues.

This morning brother Mudar Badran, accompanied by Muhammad 'Abd as-Salam al-Fayturi, secretary for social affairs and social security and head of the mission of honor accompanying the guest, visited the tomb of martyr 'Umar al-Mukhtar and read prayers for his soul and placed a wreath of flowers on the tomb. He also wrote a word in the visitors' book praising the heroism of the arch martyr in the fierce battles against the fascist Italian forces.

UNITED ARAB FRONT TO FIGHT ISRAEL CALLED FOR

LD0660119Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1915 GMT 5 Apr 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The fighting Arab progressive popular movement which embodies the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters is not unconnected with the revolution and resistance in the Arab homeland. Most certainly, it is an armed wing of the movement of the Arab masses. Thus, in an attempt to destroy the movement of the Arab masses, imperialism and Zionism have centered their offensive against the fighting wing to strip it of its guns, so that when capitulation is imposed, despair will spread throughout the ranks of the movement of the Arab masses in the entire greater homeland.

Despite the wide-scale attack launched by the Zionist enemy with arms and with U.S. support, and despite the ferocity of the capitulatory plot which imperialism and its agents in the area are trying to implement step by step, and despite the support of the regimes of capitulation and apostasy which feel they have common interests with imperialism and Zionism in the destruction of the Arab resistance with its deep national roots--despite all this, the Zionist-imperialist aggression has failed to rob the Arab fighter of his arms and has not been able to destroy the resistance. This makes it certain that imperialism, which has not yet surrendered and which has not yet abandoned carrying out its acts of aggression against the Arab nation, will escalate its attacks in the near future, hoping to accomplish what it has so far failed to accomplish.

Thus, so that the Arab nation can check the aggression and defeat the imperialist-Zionist enemy and defend the unionist future to which it aspires, and consequently liberate its usurped territory, it has to amass all of its capabilities and resources. Without a doubt the capabilities of the Arab nation are of such volume and effect that they provide it with the power to inflict defeat on Zionism and imperialism and their allies in the Arab homeland. Our nation does not need to seek power or support from outside. It is sufficient for it to use its own power simultaneously to transform the entire situation in favor of its interests, the objectives of liberation and the retrieval of its usurped territory. As it advocates the pan-Arabism of the battle, the Jamahiriyah calls for the pooling of the huge capabilities of the Arab nation. As it advocates the pan-Arabism of fedayeen action, the Jamahiriyah calls for the bolstering and strengthening of the fighting armed wing of the Arab revolutionary movement. The Jamahiriyah has called and continues to call for the revival of the eastern front for the unleashing of fedayeen action from all of the borders around occupied Palestine in order to tighten the grip around the enemy and deal heavy blows toward his heart, giving him no rest or time to gather his forces to fight one Arab front. As it calls on the Arab nation to adopt these principles, the Jamahiriyah rushes to place all of its capabilities in the service of the pan-Arab battle.

SHELLING CONTINUES IN EASTERN SECTOR OF S. LEBANON

TA051936Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Apr 78 TA

[From special Newsreel]

[Excerpt] Over to southern Lebanon. Here is a report by our military correspondent Yosi 'Abadi:

The eastern sector in southern Lebanon has experienced a second day of exchanges of fire. After a calm morning, some 20 shells were fired at 1630 today at the township of At-Tayyibah, 3 km northwest of Misgav 'Am. A Christian force deployed in this township, which had been held by terrorists before the Litani operation. The artillery fire was apparently directed at that force. The source of the fire was the Beaufort Fortress, which is about 5 km north of At-Tayyibah, on the other side of the Litani River.

IDF DENIES REPORTED PROBLEMS WITH UN FORCES

TA060628Y Jerusalem POST in English 6 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[Text] An Israeli Defense Forces spokesman last night dismissed a UPI report claiming that Norwegian UN troops had barred an Israeli patrol from entering the south Lebanese village of Al-Habbariyah on Tuesday.

The spokesman strongly denied there were any difficulties with UNIFIL. "We are cooperating very fully and there are no troubles whatsoever," he declared.

He told the Jerusalem POST that it was only with considerable difficulty that he had tracked down the origin of the UPI report from Beirut, and it was found to have been merely technical. When the Israel unit reached the UNIFIL checkpost, the Norwegians in control there apparently were not aware of standing instructions to cooperate with the IDF. They checked with their base and were immediately told to allow the Israel unit to pass.

EHRLICH TO RESIST PUBLIC SECTOR WAGE DEMANDS

TA060632Y Jerusalem POST in English 6 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[By Shlomo Maoz]

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich repeated yesterday that he is determined not to give employees in the public services the same wage increments agreed upon 10 days ago for production workers. He also announced a price freeze on basic commodities.

The first strike of state employees in protest against the government's wage policy is a warning strike today by the country's 60,000 teachers. Continuing strikes affected are the EL AL action and the broadcasting authority blackout. Ehrlich told his cabinet colleagues he would stand fast under the pressure of these strikes as he had held out against the seamen during their 11-week strike. Ehrlich considers the government's treatment of the seamen's strike successful.

Ehrlich repeated his stand several times yesterday--once at a meeting of a joint panel of the Ministerial Economic Committee and the Ministerial Wages Committee. The joint committee yesterday "decided not to decide" on a wage policy for the public sector at this stage. They will meet again on Sunday, and meanwhile established a ministerial committee on strikes. Members of that body are the ministers of finance; industry, commerce and tourism; transport (and communications); education; and labor and social affairs--five ministers.

YADIN DENOUNCES TERM 'GROUP OF 300 OFFICERS'

TA051859Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Apr 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Prof Yiga'el Yadin denounced the use of the term "the group of 300 officers" and said it was a distortion of democracy in Israel. Professor Yadin makes the statement on the program "This Is My Wish," which will be broadcast at 1900 today. It was recorded at a navy base. We will hear an excerpt from the deputy prime minister's statement, in answer to a soldier's question. [begin recording]

I, personally, am flabbergasted to see that it is possible in the democratic State of Israel for a body to be presented to the outside, a body which is called a group of the 300 officers. I don't give a damn whether they are officers--or 300 soldiers. We live in a country where we have an army in reserve. Every normal civilian body--unless they are deserters--can be interpreted and described something like this: 20 major generals and two brigadier generals and three majors and sergeant majors have met and decided. This is a distortion. Particularly as overseas, in those countries where it is customary for military groups to interfere in politics, people can get the idea that in the State of Israel the army has begun to be interested in politics. I am, first of all, taking exception to this.

If there were 300 people--and they are good boys, and they have good intentions--they can appear as 300 boys, tell their names, say what they believe in and present their views. Second, as regards the particular matter in question, we are a democratic country and I deem it to be proper that if there are opinionated people--regardless whether they criticize the government or support it--they have every right, in the context of law and public order, to express their opinion. Not only in the Knesset. In the Knesset the issues are decided. However, under the present election system, where the voter is unable to influence the elected directly, such actions--without my saying now whether I accept their view--are desirable, provided they are done in a democratic manner and do not distort the real democratic regime in the country. [end recording]

DAVAR COMMENTATOR DISCUSSES DMC POLICY

TA051047Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Apr 78 p 7 TA

[Haggay Eshed commentary]

[Text] The deputy prime minister and head of the Democratic Movement for Change, Yiga'el Yadin, is satisfied with the cabinet, the prime minister and the DMC's role in the cabinet. He said this week at a DMC Council session that the present cabinet is the best possible and that the prime minister is the best possible. He said that the DMC ministers had a decisive share in the decision to send Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman to Cairo. Yadin hopes it will not be the last visit, adding that we are now closer to a joint declaration of principles with the Egyptians than we have ever been and that this rapprochement has been achieved, to a certain extent, because of bypassing U.S. mediation in favor of direct dialog with Egypt.

Both Yiga'el Yadin and Justice Minister Shemu'el Tamir make the following accusation against the Americans: No cabinet in Israel has been asked to give an interpretation to Resolution 242 such as the current cabinet has been asked and the Americans are even more active in this matter than are the Egyptians. The Egyptians prefer to hold negotiations over real achievements. [paragraph continues]

'Ezer Weizman's first impression was that the Americans are more stubborn than the Egyptians and it may be that they are not interested in advancing the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations without sufficiently guaranteeing, in their view, the interests of Jordan and, possibly, those of Syria and without receiving a prior Saudi Arabian authorization for this.

The DMC leaders are not saying these things in public, but the DMC Council's decisions emphasize the need for a direct meeting between the two sides. In the cabinet, the DMC ministers have emphatically supported the "Weizman line" which prefers direct negotiations with the Egyptians to U.S. mediation. Altogether, the DMC is acting as "rear reserves" for 'Ezer Weizman who has "sat on the fence" and thus inherited Moshe Dayan's role in the Golda Meir cabinet, although in the opposite direction. The facts that Weizman is the spearhead of the policy that the DMC supports and that the considerations of the DMC ministers are being heard less than Weizman's voice is arousing criticism and dissatisfaction among DMC Council and Knesset faction members; but, at this stage, the political and security issue is not the focus of the ferment in the DMC.

In a series of internal debates in the DMC Knesset faction, in the party's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee and in its council, unanimity over the decisions made has in fact been revealed. It was decided to refrain from settlement activity in all the administered territories during the negotiations with Egypt. It was also decided that there must be "willingness for territorial compromise in the eastern sector as well, in the framework of a peace agreement, with the Jordan as the security border." The repeated emphasis on "the Jordan as the security border" combined with strong reservations about U.S. mediation may be interpreted as a moderate hawkish tone. (According to the definition of MK Virshubsky, the DMC now has only "less doves" and "more doves.")

A similar tone has taken the form of the angry reaction to the "organization of reserve officers" and "peace now." Yadin regards the use of a military title for a political argument as a mistake and a risk. Tamir, as one who stands behind the cabinet telling it to brandish a whip, says: "Peace now" is talking about a return to the 1967 borders and accepting all As-Sadat's conditions. This is a total surrender to dictate and the loss of the achievements we have gained. Eli Eyal has said in the council: We must underline not only the differences of opinion with the Begin policy, but, even more, the gap between us and the Carter administration, which has even gone back on statements by previous presidents about the interpretation of 242, which speaks of borders to be determined in an agreement between the two sides. Even Toledano said: Not one of us can agree to what the Americans and the Egyptians want.

The variety of views in the DMC does not necessarily lead it on a collision course with the policy of the administration. The DMC ministers hope that, when the moment of truth arrives, "Begin will fold" both with their help and their influence. If not--the DMC will then have to decide. Even the most decided "doves" from Shinui agree on putting off the internal decision for the moment.

Amnon Rubinstein says: At this stage there is no need to bring up the matter of leaving the cabinet. We have a weighty responsibility. We hold enormous strength in our hands and we must use to introduce changes in the cabinet's policy and to work toward a lessening in the dispute between us and the United States. Mordekhay Virshubsky says: The argument within the DMC on matters of foreign affairs and security is more tactical than principle. [paragraph continues]

It may very well be that if negotiations are held and other solutions are put forward, such as the Rafah approaches, real arguments may arise. Among members of the former Shinui there is a tactical argument over how to bring about a change in the cabinet's policy in the future. There are those who think that resignation from the cabinet should be seriously considered, while presenting minimum conditions on matters of foreign affairs and security. There are also those who think that there is no point in speaking about resignation now. Only when it becomes clear in the future that a deadend situation has been created by the cabinet's policy should such a step be discussed.

The former members of Shinui are not aiming at a split, but only at a future united resignation from the cabinet. For this purpose they are getting organized. Minister Tamir hit out at Rubinstein: You are the only ones working as a group in the DMC. Rubinstein denied this. There is no doubt that the personal and ideological ties of the former Shinui members are being preserved. A recently completed census indicated about 10,000 members throughout the country. The election of the DMC Council will apparently be held in June and the Shinui people are hoping to gain the best internal card and reach the creation of a majority in favor of resigning from the cabinet. They are continuing to simmer and cause endless ferment and are not deterred from upsetting the cabinet and the DMC ministers at every opportunity. Virshubsky says: There is dissatisfaction with the way the cabinet is run even in economic and social affairs and wages policy and in religious matters (on the issue of recruitment of girls into the IDF, the cabinet nearly fell the day before yesterday, with the aid of DMC votes).

It may be that a greater consensus will be found for leaving the cabinet on domestic affairs, Virshubsky says, adding: I think that in the opposition we were able to have a greater influence on the cabinet's policy. The right to abstain from voting is not sufficient. Support for the cabinet when needed is more valuable when it comes from the opposition, he argues. But the impression exists that these matters are for the moment only in the heart. The real decision is to postpone decision and to organize in preparation for the internal election in June so as to create a majority in favor of organized resignation from the cabinet later. Nevertheless, everything depends on political developments and on all sorts of coincidental and unexpected opportunities which will arise between now and then. The DMC is not sitting on the fence--that place has been taken by 'Ezer Weizman--but it is likely to suddenly burst out of its present constraints.

MAJORITY OF PUBLIC SAID TO SUPPORT BEGIN

TA051058Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Apr 78 p 3 TA

[By AFP correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] There is full support for the Begin cabinet's foreign policy from 60 percent of the Israelis, while 5.2 percent support it with certain reservations, a poll by the Israeli Institute for Modern Sociological Research in Jerusalem states.

The poll shows that 21.6 percent of the Israeli population think that a cabinet led by the Labor Party would have succeeded better in the efforts to achieve peace. However, 11.3 percent of those who do not support the Begin cabinet's foreign policy think that a Labor cabinet would not have succeeded any better. Of those asked, 1.9 percent refused to answer. The poll was held on Monday, simultaneously in different regions. The questions were asked of 1,000 people representing different classes of the Israeli population in towns and villages.

The institute's director, Prof (Iliya Zamzuv), from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, commented in this connection that the parties included in Menahem Begin's coalition cabinet gained 68 percent of the votes in the election in May 1977.

The fact that those supporting the Begin cabinet's foreign policy is now 60 percent indicates--in the view of the poll's editors--a certain dissatisfaction, apparently on the part of certain voters, particularly those of the DMC.

DAYAN WANTS SECRET MEETING WITH SYRIANS IN BUCHAREST

TA060650Y Jerusalem POST in English 6 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Bucharest--Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan suggested to Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu that he try to arrange secret talks between Israel and Syria here in Bucharest.

During his meeting with the president on Tuesday, Dayan observed that Israel is ready to meet with Syrian leaders anywhere, any time, either publicly or in secret. "There can be talks with them here in Romania," he observed pointedly.

President Ceausescu, reviewing world affairs with Dayan, is believed to have spoken out with considerable forcefulness against the Soviet-Cuban military activities in the Horn of Africa and elsewhere on that continent. Neither side would confirm this yesterday, but there have been signs previously that this is indeed the Romanian leader's position--and there were indications that he gave voice to it in his talks with the Israeli foreign minister.

Ambassador Abba Gefen, who has been here only 2 months and who took part in Dayan's meetings with Ceausescu, seems to have won the favorable appraisal of Romanian officials--as well as of his minister--for his handling of the visit.

POST QUOTES DAYAN ON TALKS WITH CEAUSESCU

TA060706Y Jerusalem POST in English 6 Apr 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By David Landau]

[Text] Bucharest--Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu urged Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan this week not to let the peace talks with Egypt fail "over mere words." Any agreement, any declaration of principles, he said, would ultimately stand or fall on subsequent realities--not on the precise verbiage used in the drafting.

Dayan replied--as he later told the Jerusalem POST--that he agreed it would be "absurd to allow the talks to fail over non-essential phrases. But does that mean that we must accept every Egyptian formulation as though it were a diktat?"

Dayan returned to Israel last night. He will meet Premier Begin today to report on his talks and to transmit personal regards from Ceausescu.

Dayan said Ceausescu had commended PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat to him as "a moderate man," and had aruged strongly for the PLO's right to represent the Palestinian cause.

Reliable sources here indicate that Ceausescu proposed that Dayan, or some other Israeli leader, meet with 'Arafat, who is due to visit Bucharest in a few days. But Dayan dismissed the notion out of hand.

Dayan said he had told Ceausescu that for Israel the PLO was "a bunch of Nazis"--and Ceausescu had let the subject drop.

The foreign minister noted yesterday, with some gratification, that there was no specific reference to the PLO in the official Romanian communique summing up his six hours of talks with the president.

The communique rehearsed Romania's three-pronged approach to a Middle East solution: full Israeli withdrawal, realization of Palestinian rights including the right to statehood, and ensuring the rights of all states and peoples in the area to exist and be secure.

Dayan told the POST yesterday morning before leaving that he understood Ceausescu's call on Israel not to quibble about the wording of the "declaration of principles" to be directed toward Egypt too.

Dayan apparently expects Romania to make the same point in contacts with the Egyptians.

The foreign minister said he had pointed out to Ceausescu that Israel was now waiting for Egypt to move. Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman had brought back from Cairo last weekend an expression of readiness in principle on President as-Sadat's part to resume the committee negotiations--but with no date for such resumption. Prime Minister Begin's written appeal to the Egyptian leader to renew the negotiating process had also been deflected without a definite commitment. And from Washington, too, there was no word of a new American effort that could get the stalled talks under way again.

The most significant aspect of Romania's position on the Mideast, Dayan said, was its continued enthusiastic support for the As-Sadat initiative--in the face of Soviet and hard-line Arab opposition to it. Ideally, no doubt, Ceausescu would prefer a reconvened Geneva conference and efforts toward a comprehensive settlement, with the Soviets, the Syrians and the UN taking part. But he believed--as did Israel, Egypt and the U.S.--that the present situation the Israel-Egypt separate dialogue was the most promising way to proceed.

Dayan made the same point, at great length and with deliberation, at a press conference with about a dozen leading Romanian newsmen.

"I agreed with your president," he said, "that although we all want a comprehensive agreement, we must go on now with the As-Sadat initiative and not drop it or stop it in exchange for a Geneva with all the Arabs and the Soviets present there. The As-Sadat initiative, he explained to the local media, was "not a substitute for Geneva, but a corridor to Geneva"--a breakthrough with Egypt would pave the way to a comprehensive settlement.

To the POST, Dayan said he had been particularly pleased with the freedom and frankness with which his conversation with Ceausescu had proceeded. Neither side had pulled any punches, but each had heard out the other and the discussion had been "profound and informed." [They had not examined in detail the texts of the various Israeli proposals, which Dayan had with him, but the foreign minister had the impression that Ceausescu was thoroughly versed in the different formulas and nuances.]

The conversation had been especially blunt on the topic of Syria, Dayan said. When Ceausescu remarked that Israel must make its peace with Syria, Dayan had retorted:

"We are not lepers. We are not some third-rate state that nobody talks to. If Syrian President Al-Asad wants to talk to us--let him talk...to date Syria has only made war with Israel, never sought to make peace.

Ceausescu observed that it was difficult for Al-Asad to open talks with Israel now because As-Sadat had done so.

The foreign minister said he had been interested to hear Ceausescu's observation that the Chinese--unlike the Soviets--were in effect supporting the As-Sadat initiative. This meant that China differed from the radical Arab extremists on this crucial issue, Ceausescu had added significantly.

On the aliya question, Dayan said he had confined himself to thanking Ceausescu for Romania's attitude over the years, which had facilitated large-scale aliya to Israel. The Romanian community in Israel today was "one of our most constructive elements," the foreign minister informed the president.

All in all, and despite the wide and unchanged differences on basic Mideast issues, Dayan seemed pleased with his meeting with Ceausescu.

Other Israeli sources noted with satisfaction that the communique, while restating Bucharest's position--which is so different from Israel's--nevertheless made a point of saying that relations between the two countries must continue to flourish.

Dayan said that Romanian Foreign Minister Stefan Andrei and Deputy Minister Pacoste would be visiting Israel (separately) during the summer, and that Bucharest was interested in hosting other Israeli ministers here.

The main purpose--and achievement--of his visit here, Dayan told the POST, had been to give Ceausescu a deep and thorough appreciation of Israel's thinking. Even though he did not agree with it, he would hopefully have understood it well and thus would be able to discuss it knowledgeably with Arab and other statesmen.

Making the same point to the Romanian newsmen, Dayan dwelt on Ceausescu's stature as one of the leading statesmen in the world today who was intimately familiar with international affairs around the globe, thanks to his close contacts with other national leaders of all political complexions. (The Romanian president is due to visit the U.S. next week.)

Dayan also spoke at his news conference with the local press of Ceausescu's "deep knowledge of Mideastern problems and his personal motivation to try to help bring peace in every way he can."

What Israel hoped for and expected from the Romanian leader, Dayan continued, was not active mediation--after all, Ceausescu himself believed that direct negotiations were the best and most promising method to make progress--but to convey an informed understanding of Israel's positions to other leaders.

Asked about the "recent complication in the Mideast"--a local journalist's way of referring to Israel's incursion into Lebanon--Dayan flashed back that the "complication" had not begun with the IDF operation but with the Fatah attack on the coastal road, which he proceeded to describe in detail. Yasir 'Arafat, he recalled, had taken credit for that attack and had pledged further such actions.

Dayan also explained to his Romanian audience why Israel objects to a separate Palestinian state, pointing out that the Palestinians could have set one up between 1948 and 1967 had they so desired. He said that none of the parties "currently actively involved in the peace-making"--Israel, Egypt and the U.S.--saw a separate state as the optimal solution, but preferred some form of linkage to Jordan.

MINISTER SHARON REITERATES HIS SINAI DOCTRINE

TA051714Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Apr 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpt] Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon today took his colleagues in the cabinet to task for not having stood by him on the issue of the construction of footholds in the Rafah approaches, although he had acted in accordance with explicit cabinet resolutions. The agriculture minister, who today briefed the Knesset Finance Committee on the footholds that have been constructed, added that he had been forced to wait for 10 days after the media started attacking him on the issue before the prime minister issued an announcement which confirmed that Sharon had indeed acted in accordance with cabinet resolutions. Our Knesset correspondent Moshe Hakohen has this report on minister Sharon's appearance before the Finance Committee:

The agriculture minister was invited to appear at the Finance Committee following a demand by Alinement MK's Dani Rosolio and 'Adi Amoray that he provide an explanation for the 20 million pounds approved last week by the Finance Committee for financing the footholds that have been erected in the Rafah approaches.

The agriculture minister referred to a map of the region and pointed out the location of the 13 footholds, which have not been constructed, as was alleged, in the center of Sinai. Eleven of them are located--more or less--along two parallel avenues south of the settlement Haruvit, which is west of Yamit. Two more footholds are more to the east, near the international frontier with Egypt. Minister Sharon explained that the footholds were constructed to constitute a basis for the fleshing out of existing settlements in the Sadot complex, so that they might serve as a defense strip. They were intended to be used for agricultural cultivation by the existing settlements, the agriculture minister stressed, and not for any new settlement. Ten of the footholds have been fenced in, water lines have been laid to all of them and water towers have been constructed in them, the same towers that have been termed towers-in-the-air. In the footholds in question 25 storage rooms have also been erected. For the fleshing out of the existing settlements in the Sadot complex, four settlement nuclei have been marshalled, comprising 105 families.

As for the construction and location of the footholds, including the diameter of the water lines, the installations and the storerooms, there are explicit cabinet resolutions, the agriculture minister stressed. I did not do a thing on my own initiative. The attacks against me with regard to the footholds pain me, Minister Sharon said. I was implementing explicit cabinet decisions and I was attacked personally. This was a veritable bloodletting.

RASTAKHIZ ATTACKS 'REACTIONARIES' BEHIND RIOTING

LD011224Y Teheran PARS in English 1140 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, PANA, (PARS News Agency), 31 March 1978--In a front page article on Thursday March 30, the morning daily RASTAKHIZ commented on the misconduct of the black reactionaries over the past few days. The article said that again, these reactionaries have started their attacks on public places such as libraries, schools and telephone booths which are meant to be for public use. The question that arises in the mind of any patriotic Iranian and any neutral observers is to ask whose agents these reactionaries are and whose interest they have in mind, added RASTAKHIZ.

The article continues, saying that the Iranian revolution has without any doubt, changed the face of Iranian society and brought about prosperity for all Iranians. The only opponents of the revolution were the red and black reactionaries.

In the past, these two groups of reactionaries have carried out acts against our people and our revolution but the unity and integrity of the Iranian people have nullified such actions. But these reactionaries have not yet stopped their actions and once in a while they show their opposition in different ways, observed the article.

It is interesting to note that the cries of black reactionaries are the same as those of the "left", said RASTAKHIZ. Apparently those misguided leftists who have been unable to attract public attention have now changed their stand and joined the black reactionaries. In fact, the hands that destroy public facilities are nothing but the hands of leftist reactionaries under the umbrella of black reaction thus these reactionaries hide their real identities and obvious animosity towards the public, added RASTAKHIZ.

The article goes on to question whose interest is served by damaging the headquarters of the Rastakhiz Party. This is a place of unity, integrity and understanding. Are those who damage the party headquarters in favour of political democracy in Iran and do they intend to oppose the united ideology of Iran by throwing bottles of petrol, asked RASTAKHIZ. In short, those demonstrators who chant black reactionary slogans are those misguided leftists who this time have disguised themselves in the masks of the black reactionaries.

In the past, we have experienced an unholy alliance between these two groups who have been silenced by Iranian revolution, concluded the article.

RASTAKHIZ PARTY WING CALLS FOR VIGILANCE

LD060044Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 5 Apr 78 LD

[Text] The Constructive Wing of the Iranian people's Rastakhiz Party today invited its sympathizers to be vigilant in the face of the provocations taking place against the extension of lawful freedoms in the realm and not to allow anarchy and violence to replace democratic dialog. Simultaneously with the issuing of the wing's statement pertaining to the recent incidents the Constructive Wing's spokesman today said: The wing's sympathizers, with their activity and work aimed at clarifying and explaining matters throughout the country, will have the duty to help to mentally prepare the people for a further opening up of the country's political atmosphere and struggle against anarchist agents.

The spokesman said: We desire the meeting and free comparison of ideas and beliefs on a vast scale and our weapon is that of intellect and logic. The constructive wing's sympathizers and other genuine lovers of lawful freedoms will not allow an extreme atmosphere to come about. Those who have knowingly replaced discussion and dialog with stones and bricks will not have a place today in Iran's society; and those who have unknowingly fallen by this faulty wayside should come to their senses and realize that fanfare and sabotage cannot replace constructive thoughts and deeds.

The wing's spokesman added: The wing's political group, analyzing the recent incidents, has concluded that the recent subversive activities have been carried out by tiny groups, which often traveled from city to city and fled from the scene after attacking various institutions. The use of intimidation and threats by anybody and any group runs counter to the concept of an open political atmosphere, which began 2 years ago thanks to the will of the shahanshah and should be continued decisively.

The Iranian people's Rastakhiz Party Constructive Wing's statement says that government and party officials, by establishing direct and greater contact with the people and by visiting various townships with the aim of assessing questions in every place, should help toward strengthening the course of dialog. The statement condemns every reactionary tendency to prevent the opening up of the realm's political atmosphere and to bring about an atmosphere full of threat and repression. The decisive struggle against reaction is the duty of the sympathizers of the Constructive Wing and the Iranian people as a whole. The (?method) of public anarchy is totally divorced from that of those who desire and increasingly translate into action lawful freedoms and democratic changes in the realm and no group is entitled to act above the law or to take the law into its hands without justification. The government is executing the realm's laws and it cannot display the slightest shortcoming in this work. All the people can and should be actively and positively in step in implementing the laws.

The party Constructive Wing's statement says that the realm's economic and social modernization in the years following the inception of the shah-people revolution culminated in the rout of counterrevolutionary agents. The reconstruction of the realm's political life, at the will of the shahanshah and at the wish of the majority of the Iranian people, is paving the ground for a decisive defeat of counterrevolution.

The Constructive Wing's spokesman said: For many months now this wing has started its principled and logical struggle against reactionary and antidemocratic tendencies. As announced in the last days of the past year the wing's coordinating council will hold its extraordinary session by 20 April. The programs connected with the wing's extensive activities to explain matters and to mobilize the genuine national forces for the defense of an increasing extension of lawful freedoms have been worked out and after their endorsement by the coordinating council they shall be put into effect.

'GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION' COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED

LD041405Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 4 Apr 78 LD

[Text] The first Guidance and Information Committee and its headquarters for guiding and informing Iranians both inside the country and abroad was formed this morning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Parviz 'Adl, the secretary and spokesman of the Guidance and Information Committee, spoke about the reason for setting up this committee. Alluding to provocations that are taking place against the freedom of the Iranian nation he said: Our eyes and ears are alert to events in the world arena, and from our knowledge of the world situation, we know that freedom and independence is a great asset. Countries and nations who possess it are very fortunate; those who are not free and are under the sway of others live in abysmal ill-fortune and disgrace.

He added: Provocations that are taking place against the independence of the Iranian nation are not a matter of grain or bread, road asphalt or power shortage; it is a political matter whose aim is to strike with the axe at the roots of the existence of this nation. Therefore, we members of the Foreign Ministry and political soldiers of the country have a duty not to remain silent at this time. We know that all Iranians love the shah and their homeland and are interested in the integrity, independence and honor of this land and are ready for sacrifice in order to safeguard the fruits of the shah-people revolution. It is our duty and we will render this task even if it means that we should go door-to-door, room-to-room, shop-to-shop and city-to-city and to talk to homeland-loving compatriots.

Mr 'Adl added: The Iranian nation is currently going through one of its most sensitive eras of its history. As an honorable power, we wish to fulfil our international role regarding the preservation of sovereignty and independence in the interest of the Iranian nation and this task is not compatible with some of the views of the left and right interests. Every enlightened and clear-sighted person ought to attend to this fact and know that on such an occasion, the unholy alliance of the left and right to prevent the realization of the right of the nation that wishes to be honourable, is only natural. He added: The liberties that are enjoyed by Iranians are, unfortunately, incompatible with the wishes of some exploiters, influential people and some of the agents of foreign policies, and are harmful to them. For this very reason, in order to disgrace freedom, they embark on riots, chaos and blind imitations from the West.

The secretary and spokesman of the Guidance and Information Committee said: This committee will struggle, in collaboration with the progressive wing's national action committees, to acquaint the various groups of people with the antinational provocation and the alien agents. He added: The activities of this committee will comprise all social groups such as religious leaders, students, workers, professionals and other groups.

The chairmanship of the Guidance and Information Committee rests with the director general of Asian and African affairs and the spokesmanship thereof with Mr Parviz 'Adl, director general of information and press of the Foreign Ministry. The supervisors of the Cultural Department, the Second Political Department, publications, and the Foreign Ministry Secretariat are members of the Guidance and Information Committee.

BANGLADESH

ZIA STOPS OVER IN SHANGHAI ON WAY TO JAPAN

BK051729Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 5 Apr 78 BK

[Excerpts] President Ziaur Rahman arrived in Tokyo this evening on a 4-day state visit to Japan.

Our special respresentative reports that on his way to Japan, the president had a brief stopover at Shanghai airport. The president and Begum Zia were accorded a warm welcome by the second vice chairman of the Shanghai Municipal Revolutionary Committee, Mr Peng Chung.

In reply to the address of welcome presented by Mr Peng Chung, President Zia said that the friendship and brotherly relations between Bangladesh and China have improved satisfactorily during the past few years. Referring to the recent visit to Bangladesh by the Chinese vice premier, Mr Li Hsien-nien, and the foreign minister, Mr Huang Hua, President Zia described it as a complete success. The president said the brave people of China, under the dynamic leadership of Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, will continue to progress by leaps and bounds.

Our representative accompanying the president reported that the warm and sincere welcome accorded to President Zia in Shanghai signifies the importance China places on the Sino-Bangladesh relations, which are already very cordial.

Red banners in Chinese and English welcoming the Bangladesh president were set up at different vantage points of Shanghai airport [words indistinct].

After a 1-hour stopover the president left Shanghai for Tokyo.

Begins Visit to Japan

For KYODO reportage on President Ziaur Rahman's state visit to Japan, see the Japan section of the 6 April issue of the Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

INDIA

JANATA PARTY GAINS MAJORITY IN RAJYA SABHA

BK051614Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The Janata Party has emerged as the largest party in the Rajya Sabha after the recent biennial elections. The party has now 69 members as against 42 before the elections, thereby gaining 27 seats. The Congress-I comes next with 60 losing 12 seats from its strength of 72. The Congress, which had 64 seats, now has 52 members.

Besides the Janata Party, the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] is the other party which gained in recent biennial elections. Its strength has now increased from five to eight. The CPI's [Communist Party of India] strength has been reduced from 11 to 9 and the Moslem League's from 3 to 2. The Akali Dal and the RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party] and the Forward Block will have one member each. There is no change in the strength of the DMK [Dravida Munnetar Kazhgham] which will continue to have three members.

NINE KILLED IN MADHYA PRADESH POLICE FIRING

BK060858Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The Madhya Pradesh government has ordered a judicial inquiry by a high court judge into yesterday's police firing at Bailadila Iron Ore Project in the Bastar District where nine persons were killed and several others injured.

This was announced today in the State Assembly by the chief minister, Mr V.K. Saklecha, while giving a statement on the adjournment motion moved by some members of the Congress-I on the subject. The Congress-I members have demanded a judicial inquiry.

Earlier, in a statement, the home minister in charge of police, Mr P.N. Tripathi, said that this happened when a police party was mobbed and attacked by about 2,000 laborers when it had gone to arrest one Mr Indrajit Singh, who was allegedly inciting laborers for agitation. The laborers were agitating for several days in protest against their retrenchment.

Yesterday, the situation turned abnormal and hence the police party was sent to arrest Mr Indrajit Singh. Mr Tripathi said that in the incident one head constable died of serious injuries and 28 other police officials were injured. Before firing the police used teargas shells. A 24-hour curfew has been imposed from 1500 yesterday.

ACCORD TO END VIOLENCE REACHED IN ANDHRA PRADESH

BK051620Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Apr 78 BK

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, an agreement has been reached between the state government and the leaders of six opposition parties on restoring peace in Hyderabad and other areas. The chief minister, Dr Chenna Reddy, told newsmen after talks with the opposition leaders that the government has agreed to allow the curfew to lapse at 0600 tomorrow morning and release all the persons who were arrested in connection with the current agitation. The opposition leaders have appealed to the people to call off the proposed bundh [strike] in other towns and the current agitation in the capital and help the government to maintain law and order.

The opposition parties are the Janata Party, Congress, CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], Majlis Itehadul Moslem League and the Republican Party of India Khobargade Group.

The chief minister said if everything is all right after the lapse of the curfew, it will not be reimposed. The government has also agreed to increase ex-gratia payment to the injured and the bereaved families in the police firing. He said the government also will consider judicial inquiry into the firing, if necessary, after receiving magistrates reports.

GANDHI APPEAL FOR DOCUMENTS IN COMMISSION CASE REJECTED

BK060904Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The chief metropolitan magistrate of Delhi, Mr P.K. Jain, today rejected the application of Mrs Indira Gandhi and Mr Pranab Kumar Mukherji [former minister of state for finance], asking for complete and authenticated documents in the case on the complaints filed by the Shah Commission. Both of them have been charged with refusal to make statements on oath before the commission.

Mr Jain observed in his order that the documents and the tapes asked for by the defense counsels are neither necessary nor desirable at this stage. Both the accused have been asked to appear in person before the magistrate on the 18th of this month.

VAJPAYEE COMMENTS ON SOUTH ASIA PEACE ZONE

BK051129Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 5 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has stressed the need for intensifying the efforts to remove past suspicisons and buildingnew types of confidence and trust in South Asia. He was speaking at a dinner given in honor of the visiting Sri Lanka foreign minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed. He said that India to a point has succeeded in giving new momentum to the process of reconciliation, which would ultimately make South Asia a zone of peace and friendship.

At the first round of his talks with the External Affairs Minister Mr Vajpayee yesterday, Mr Hameed is understood to have expressed the view that the countries of Asia cannot make any impact on world development unless they forge links of economic cooperation among themselves.

Both he and Mr Vajpayee felt that peace and mutual cooperation are imperative for the development of the region. The two sides are scheduled to have another round of talks today.

PARTICIPATION IN SRI LANKA FREE TRADE ZONE DISCUSSED

BK060821Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Apr 78 BK

[Text] A Joint team of representatives of public sector undertakings and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry is to go to Sri Lanka to explore the possibility of India's participation in the free trade zone being set up there. This is one of the outcomes of the discussions between the visiting Sri Lanka foreign minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, and the external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, who had their second round of talks in New Delhi.

The two sides have also agreed to set up a high-powered official committee representing both the countries to carry out speedily the 1964 Sirimavo-Shastri agreement on the people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka. Under the agreement a certain number of people were to be repatriated to India and certain others to be given Sri Lanka citizenship. There had been shortfalls on both the sides and the committee will examine the question.

Addressing a news conference in Delhi, the Sri Lanka foreign minister made a strong plea for an active regional economic grouping in this part of the world on the line of similar groupings elsewhere.

PAKISTAN

BHUTTO ASSOCIATES QUESTIONED ON TERRORIST NETWORK

BK060630Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0620 GMT 6 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, April 6 (AFP)--Three federal ministers, four deputies and several other supporters of former Premier Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto are being questioned by Lahore police, a section of the Pakistani press reported today.

The interrogations are apparently linked to inquiries into a terrorist network, the dailies said.

The KARACHI MORNING NEWS said this network intended on April 1 to carry out a large scale bomb attack on the Lahore High Court which in the middle of March condemned Mr Bhutto to hang.

The daily gave no names but said the attack had been foiled by the arrest of the son of a provincial deputy transporting a large amount of explosives. The arrest led to the rounding up of most of the conspirators, the paper added.

MORNING NEWS recalled that several bomb attacks had occurred over the last few weeks in Lahore and the surrounding area, including a grenade attack on the United States Consulate on Monday [3 April].

The press said the arrests had not been confirmed by authorities as not all members of the conspiracy had yet been held.

With all political activity banned in Pakistan, Mr Bhutto's party, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), has not yet made any comment. In the past PPP leaders have always rejected any ideas of using violence to save the former premier and termed "provocations" the armed incidents which preceded and followed their leader's sentence to death.

Meanwhile, Ahmed Reza Kasuri, son of the man for whose murder Mr Bhutto was convicted, wrote to Islamabad embassies to protest against foreign countries interceding on Mr Bhutto's behalf. He wrote that any interference before the Supreme Court decided on Mr Bhutto's appeal would be "a grave act of injustice."

Currently a campaign has gained momentum (apparently backed by the military regime) for justice to follow its course. Journalists and diplomats have received numerous telegrams from Pakistani associations claiming Mr Bhutto's trial was "in order" and that pleading in his favour was "inadmissible" at this stage in the proceedings.

SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE EXPLAINS TRADE PROTOCOL

BK0314Z2Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The Soviet-Pakistan trade turnover during the current year is unlikely to reach the $63-million mark, the largest ever between the two countries. This was stated by the Soviet trade representative in Pakistan, Mr (?nadzhimov), in Karachi today.

Explaining the salient features of the new trade protocol signed in Moscow on 20 March, he described it as a milestone in the history of mutually advantageous trade relations between the two countries.

He said the new protocol envisages a 50-percent increase in trade turnover in 1978 compared with last year. He said that in addition to the protocol, a letter of exchange was also signed envisaging imports of Pakistani goods by the Soviet Union to the tune of about 190 million rupees in repayment of earlier credits extended to Pakistan by the Soviet Union.

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